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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 991231
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FOR AMBASSADOR - DCM - POL - ECON
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FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR OCTOBER 21, 1996.

(C) PERU: VATICANO AND RETIRED ARMY GENERAL CONVICTED
OF DRUG TRAFFICKING: THE CONVICTION OF DEMETRIO CHAVEZ
PENAHERRERA (AKA "VATICANO") ON OCTOBER 11 CLOSES PERU'S

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 28 SEP 2001 200004441

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TRIAL OF THE FORMER LINEAR TARGET. RETIRED GEN JAIME RIOS ARAICO AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICERS WERE ALSO CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGES. VATICANO CREATED A STIR DURING THE FIVE MONTH TRIAL BY ALLEGING HE PAID PROTECTION MONEY TO VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, DE FACTO HEAD OF THE PERUVIAN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. ALTHOUGH THE CONVICTIONS OF VATICANO AND 47 OTHERS LEFT A LOT TO BE DESIRED IN TERMS OF JURISPRUDENCE, THE CONVICTION OF MILITARY OFFICIALS HAS SENT A STRONG MESSAGE THAT THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO PUNISH NARCOTRAFFICKING CORRUPTION.
(KASKA)

(C) PERU: AEROPERU RECOVERY UPDATE. THE TWO BLACK BOXES FROM THE CRASH HAVE BEEN RECOVERED AND FLOWN TO WASHINGTON FOR EXAMINATION. THE VOICE DATA RECORDER WAS FOUND IN GOOD SHAPE, WHILE THE FLIGHT DATA RECORDER HAD A DAMAGED HOUSING. THE FAA HOPES AN INTERNAL CASING KEPT THE FDR FROM FURTHER DAMAGE. OFFICIALS IN LIMA MAY HEAR EARLY THIS WEEK ABOUT THE INITIAL READOUT FROM THE BOXES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO SEARCH FOR SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTS. OPERATIONS AT SEA CONTINUE IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, WITH SIX MORE BODIES FOUND. THE NTSB HAS ASKED THAT INFO REGARDING RECOVERY OPERATIONS BE CLOSELY HELD AT THIS

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TIME. (KASKA)

FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR OCTOBER 18, 1996.

(C) COLOMBIA: ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BE DISMISSED. THE COLOMBIAN SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCED TODAY ITS INTENT TO REMOVE NARCO-TAINTED (AND U.S.-VISA-STRIPPED) AG VASQUEZ VELASQUEZ FROM OFFICE -- A FIRST IN COLOMBIA'S HISTORY. THE SUPREME COURT VOTED TO OUST VASQUEZ AFTER REVIEWING EVIDENCE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE AG AND THE PLAINTIFFS IN A SUIT AGAINST PROSECUTOR GENERAL ALFONSO VALDIVIESO. THE COLOMBIAN SENATE MUST REVIEW THE PROPOSAL AND DISMISS VASQUEZ; POST REPORTS THAT THE AG'S ALLIES IN THE SENATE MAY TRY TO FIND A CONSTITUTIONAL LOOPHOLE TO BLOCK THE MOTION. (WEIGOLD-HANSON)

(C) VENEZUELA: GOV TO COOPERATE ON SHIPBOARDING. ON 10/16, ACTING FM ALCALAY TOLD CHARGE THE GOV PLANS TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL SHIPBOARDING AGREEMENTS WITH THE

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BRITISH AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS. THE AGREEMENTS WOULD PROVIDE THE LEGAL BASIS FOR U.S. COAST GUARD BOARDING OF SUSPECT VESSELS FROM THESE THIRD COUNTRY SHIPS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOV WILL AUTHORIZE SUCH OPERATIONS ON AN AD HOC BASIS SO LONG AS (BRITISH OR DUTCH) SHIP CAPTAINS, RATHER THAN USCG PERSONNEL, MAKE THE BOARDING REQUESTS. BRITISH MFA WILL MEET WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR ON 10/22 TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AT REFUSALS TO AUTHORIZE USCG SHIPBOARDING FROM U.K. VESSELS. A/S GELBARD HAS A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ECHEVERRIA ON THIS ISSUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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(SIROTIC)

(SBU) ECUADOR: U.S. INVESTORS WANT BIT IMPLEMENTED. IN RESPONSE TO A USTR-DOC QUERY ON THE IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PENDING BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY ON U.S. COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN ECUADOR, EMBASSY QUITO POLLED OIL AND NON-OIL FIRMS. THE RESPONSE WAS BASICALLY UNANIMOUS: THEY SUPPORT BIT'S IMPLEMENTATION IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE SAFETY NET OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION TO THEIR ECUADORAN OPERATIONS. (KOPF)

(SBU) ECUADOR: BUCARAM IN MIAMI SUNDAY/MONDAY. ECUADOR'S EMBASSY HAS TOLD THE DESK THAT PRESIDENT BUCARAM WILL ARRIVE IN MIAMI THIS SUNDAY EVENING FOR AN 18 HOUR MEDICAL VISIT. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENTOURAGE OF 20. (KOPF)

(U) ECUADOR: CAICEDO COMING. THE GOE'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., HUGO CAICEDO, ARRIVES MONDAY, OCTOBER 28. AND IS WORKING WITH PROTOCOL ON HIS AIRPORT GREETING. (KOPF)

(U) BOLIVIA: PROGRESS ON HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ACTION AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATORS HAVE AGREED TO SEVERAL PROPOSALS WHICH WILL CLEAR THE PATH TO AN AGREEMENT WITH GOB THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO RESUME HCA ACTIVITIES THERE. FM ARANIBAR IS ANXIOUS TO RESUME HCA ACTIVITIES AND SEES PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE STEADY "DE-NARCOTIZING" OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. (TORRANCE)

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